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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes the work and achievements of Year 2 of the Positive Parenting Project. The project was designed to support parents in combating the effects of poverty in four disadvantaged communities in Scotland, by using a needs-led and preventive approach; by working in partnership with parents and other agencies to develop sustainable structures; by providing parents with opportunities for self-help, support, information, and training; and by providing quality child care. The report notes that in Year 2, the project increased the level of contact with parents and children and built up a wide network of contacts with agencies and organizations in each of the communities. The report delineates specific achievements for each community and outlines future reports and action plans for Year 3 of the project. In addition, the report describes project activities related to organizing seminars, presenting at conferences, and developing newsletters, journal articles, and other publications. (KB)

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Supporting Parents, Supporting Parenting

Second Year Report

Identifying the Support Needs of Parents and Families in Scotland

by Elizabeth Cutting

Save the Children Scotland Programme
Positive Parenting Project
funded by the

NATIONAL LOTTERY CHARITIES BOARD

1999

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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the members of the Positive Parenting Project team who have worked so hard and shown such an enormous level of commitment and enthusiasm.

This report would not have been possible without their help and co-operation.

I would also like to acknowledge the support provided by a wide range of people and organisations, in particular Health Visitors, to the overall success of the Project. I do hope I have not omitted anyone from the list in the Appendix.

Finally I would like to thank the National Lottery Charities Board for funding the Project.

Elizabeth Cutting
Project Co-ordinator

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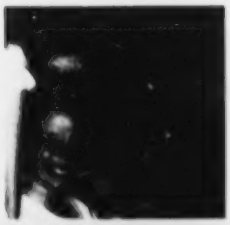


Introduction

In June 1996 the Scotland Programme of Save the Children Fund (SCF) was awarded a grant from the National Lottery Charities Board to fund a new initiative, the Positive Parenting Project, under the Low Income Theme of the second round of lottery grants.

The grant was for a three year period and work commenced in January 1997.

This report provides a summary of the work and achievements in Year 2 and builds on the first report **Supporting Parents, Supporting Parenting.**

The Project proposal was originally developed by SCF in response to two perceived demands:

- ***the increasing levels of poverty that children and families are experiencing in Scotland***
- ***the need for all parents to be able to access appropriate support, services and information in their roles as parents.***

Under Article 18 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, States Parties are obliged to render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child rearing responsibilities and to ensure the development of facilities and services for the care of children.

The Convention places special emphasis on the primary caring and protective responsibility of the family.

It encourages governments to respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and the wider family, intervening only to provide care when parents or others responsible fail to do so.

Save the Children, as a leading children's rights organisation, considers the provision of appropriate support to parents as essential in ensuring that children's rights are actively being addressed.

By providing this support, parents can be helped to recognise the connections between their children's needs and rights and how they can become powerful advocates on their behalf.

All of the work with parents is underpinned by this important principle.

The Project works with families in disadvantaged communities for whom support is becoming increasingly more important.

Not only do families face increasing levels of economic hardship, they also experience increased social exclusion as their ability to access services and resources is restricted.

Many of these parents experience a reduced capacity to participate in society or contribute to the decision making process.

Thus the Project aims to provide a range of support to parents in four communities in Scotland based on the following principles:

- ***a needs led and preventive approach***
- ***working in partnership with parents and other agencies to develop sustainable structures***
- ***providing parents with opportunities for self-help, support, information and training***
- ***quality child care is made available to all parents***

Summary of Main Findings - Year 1

The first year of the Project (1997) focused strongly on working with parents and other organisations to identify the important issues in terms of support.

We consulted with over three hundred parents and professionals as part of a needs assessment.

These findings were included in the first year report **Supporting Parents, Supporting Parenting** and were used to inform the work in year two.

The main issues in terms of improving support to parents were:

- ***the provision of information to improve access to local and national support services and resources***
- ***an increase in the availability of information on child development and child health.***
- ***the need to develop closer links with schools and teachers***
- ***better preparation for parenthood with young people***
- ***the provision of informal support structures which are responsive to parents' needs***
- ***the importance of child care to allow parents to access training/employment opportunities***

The Project actively responded to these issues by building on and developing a range of support structures in Greater Pilton and Niddrie in Edinburgh, Royston in Glasgow and rural Angus.

"This group should become a permanent fixture."

"The Young Parents Group has been a good way of meeting other mothers with young kids. The talks we have had have been very interesting."

General Findings - Year 2

In 1998 the Project worked in the following areas:

Greater Pilton, Edinburgh

Angus

Royston, Glasgow

Niddrie, Edinburgh (until July 1998)

Initial discussions also took place to develop work at the Blackburn Family Centre in West Lothian in 1999.

This year we have been able to consolidate the work, build on our contacts with other agencies and organisations and increase the provision for contact with parents and children throughout the Project.

This has mostly been done in collaboration with other agencies to ensure that the structures which have been developed offer sustainable potential, when the Project concludes in December 1999.

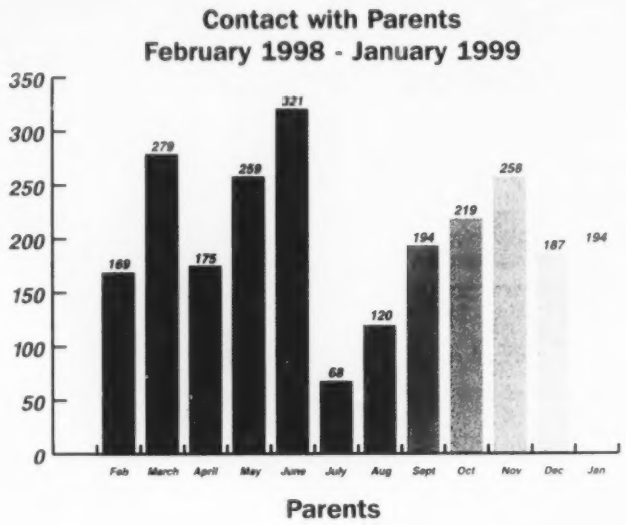
In line with our first year's findings, this support is based on an open access and informal basis in which parents take the lead on the issues or activities they wish to pursue.

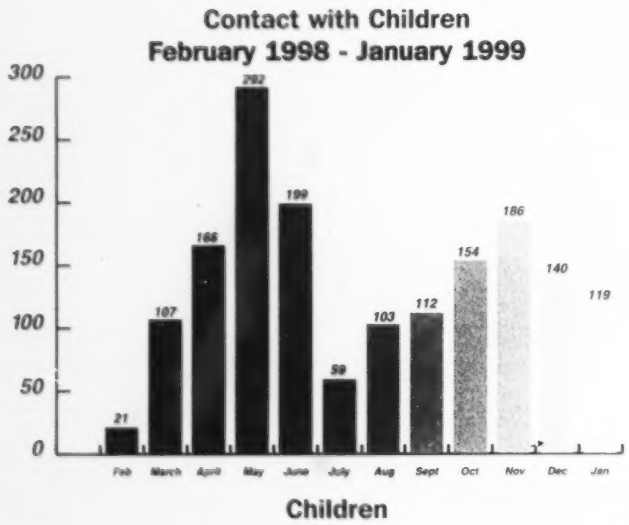
This formula, in which the social and activity aspects of support are emphasised and built on and quality child care is made available, is consistently favoured by parents across Scotland.

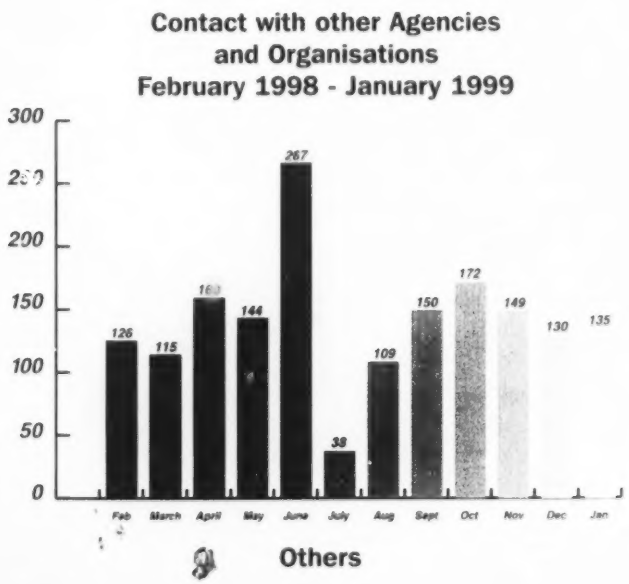
"It's good to be part of a group that attracts parents who would benefit most from this type of support. I could not have done it without the help of the Positive Parenting Project". (Health Visitor)

During the second year of the Project the level of contact with parents and children increased significantly. We also built up a wide network of contacts with agencies and organisations based in each of the communities in which we work.

The charts opposite and below illustrate the total number of contacts with parents and children across the Project between February 1998 and January 1999.







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A contact may arise as a result of one to one meetings, a telephone contact or parents participating in a parents' group or other organised event.

The charts also indicate the number of children the Project has provided childcare facilities for and an indication of the large number of people from other organisations and agencies that have been involved.

Greater Pilton - Edinburgh

The Project employs one full time Community Development Worker and one Play Worker.

The former SCF Muirhouse Under 12's and Parents Centre is now managed by the Family Service Unit due to a major programme restructuring process within Save the Children.

The Positive Parenting Project workers will continue to be part of SCF whilst being based there for the duration of the Project.

During the first year, work concentrated on developing the use of Parents' Rooms in schools in the area.

This identified the need for greater parental involvement, better ways of communicating with schools and some form of local mechanism which could be used to advocate effectively on behalf of parents and children.

In collaboration with the Head Teacher at Silverknowes Primary School work began on re-establishing the existing Parents' Room at the school.

Thus the aims for Year 2 included the following:

- ***Develop the use of Parents' Rooms in schools and their wider support potential***
- ***work with parents to establish closer links with schools***
- ***identify any further support needs of parents in the area***
- ***continue to highlight the support needs of parents in Greater Pilton***

Project Response

The following initiatives were undertaken in Year 2:

Parents' Rooms in Schools

Silverknowes Parents' Room - Ongoing

This structure, based in Silverknowes Primary School, continues to offer support to parents within the school and has gradually seen an increase in the number of parents and children attending.

Two sessions a week take place in what is now a well established resource within the school.

Parents identify a programme of events and are gradually taking over the running of the group. Childcare is also provided for under 5s.

Parents Option for Support - Ongoing

This facility, provided as part of the Parents' Room at Silverknowes School, offers parents more individual support in situations where this is required.

Parents, children and the school, work closely together to overcome difficulties and take an individual and holistic approach in identifying the most appropriate forms of support to offer.

Royston Parents' Room

This facility, based within Royston Primary School, ran from March to June '98 and was based on the existing model in Silverknowes. However, due to a number of factors the group did not reform after the school holidays.

Supporting Community Action by Parents

Parents' Action Group - Ongoing

Following the Early Years Strategy Conference in Greater Pilton in 1997, a number of parents got together to form a local action group.

The conference brought parents and practitioners together to highlight the needs of young children and their parents and to identify the gaps in provision in the area.

This group of parents now work together to identify and highlight these issues in Greater Pilton and have been supported by the Pilton Partnership's Regeneration Fund to undertake research into the provision of services for children under the age of 12 years and their parents in the area.

Following training, the parents produced and administered a questionnaire to a broad range of parents in the area; eventually gathering over 180 replies.

Supporting Local Initiatives

Men's Group

Childcare support was provided by the Project to enable a Men's Group to run. This group was formed by a local Health Worker who brought a group of local fathers together to look at a number of parenting and health related issues.

Forthcoming Reports

A report will be published in Year 3 on the use of Parents' Rooms in schools and the potential that they offer.

It will examine how they contribute to better communications between schools and families and how they fit in with wider education policies.

It will also provide advice on the most successful way to set up a similar initiative and will draw on the considerable experience gained by the Positive Parenting Project over the past two years.

The Parents' Action Group have produced a report on the findings of their questionnaire. This highlights the needs of children and families in Greater Pilton in relation to services for primary school age children. The extensive response to this by parents in the area will provide a valuable input into the development of a local Early Years strategy and will be used to provide evidence to the Lord Provosts Commission on Social Exclusion.

Year 3

For the remainder of the Project, work will concentrate on continuing to support the Parent's Room at Silverknowes Primary School and the Parents' Action Group.

We will also explore with parents and other involved organisations, the most appropriate ways to ensure that these resources continue once the Project concludes.

Angus - Children and Families in Rural Angus

Children and Families in Rural Angus is a partnership between Save the Children and Angus Council. The project employs one full time Development Worker who is based within the Social Work Department at the Broomfield Resource Centre, Montrose.

Additional support is provided by a part time seconded worker from Angus Council Social Work Department.

During the first year, most of the work concentrated on identifying the key issues for children and families in the area.

This involved an extensive period of research in which professionals working with families and parents themselves were consulted.

This led to the identification of the following issues which provided a clear framework for Year 2:

- ***informal support systems for younger parents***
- ***informal support systems for parents of adolescents***
- ***parenthood education for adolescents (not parenting skills)***
- ***access to information in regard to available services***

Project Response

In response to the above findings the following initiatives were developed over the first two years of the Project.

Parents' Groups

Kirriemuir Young Parents' Group - Ongoing

This group was established in October 97 and currently has between 8 - 11 parents regularly attending once a week. The programme of activities is needs led and parents are actively involved in planning sessions.

The group is facilitated by the Project worker and local Health Visitors. The programme contents to date have included: child development, children's needs/parents' needs, healthy eating, art therapy, emergency aid, adult guidance on careers and education advice.

The group was recently granted charitable status and is currently seeking ongoing funding to ensure its long term future as an independent group.

Montrose Young Parents' Group - Ongoing

This group was established in January 1998 and has a current membership of between 10 - 13 parents. It follows the same needs led approach as the Kirriemuir group and is also facilitated by the Project worker and Health Visitors.

The programme contents are also similar with the addition of a six week stress management course undertaken in partnership with the Angus Mental Health Association.

Brechin Young Parents' Group - Ongoing

This group will commence in April '99 and will follow a similar structure to that of Kirriemuir and Montrose. The group will be facilitated by the Project worker, – Community Education Services and local Health Visitors.

Education and Awareness Raising

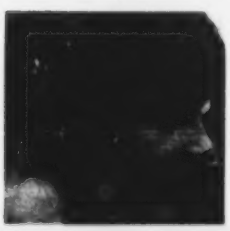
Forfar Peer Education Programme

In Forfar a ten week pilot Parenthood Education Programme began in September 98. This is an innovative multi - agency response to the increasing numbers of young parents and sexually active young people in Angus.

The work aims to bring together a group of young people to identify and address common issues and concerns which will enable them, in the long term, to develop a peer led support network for other young people in similar circumstances.

The programme is supported by the Project worker, One Parent Families Scotland, The Web Project and the Forfar Drugs Initiative Group (D.I.G.).

"I look forward to coming to the group every week because of the friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to meet new people and share issues."



Parenthood Education for Adolescents

A six week pilot course was undertaken with a group from Year 2 at Monifieth High School.

This Education for Parenthood awareness raising course was facilitated by the Project worker and the Head of the Personal and Social Education Department at the school.

The work was evaluated and showed that, not only were pupils much more aware of the implications of becoming a parent, but they also felt that the course had improved their understanding of their own parents and the decisions they take.

The report has been submitted to Angus Council Education Department.

Parents and Information

Access to Information

Following a community wide consultation a pocket guide was produced which provides information about organisations offering support, advice and information to families in Angus.

The Little Book of Information includes a list of local and national addresses and telephone numbers which match the needs of those consulted in the early stages of the Project.

Early indications are that this resource is being used extensively.

Forthcoming Reports

In year 3 a report will be published on providing support to parents in a rural area. This will look at how best to organise and sustain support and to maximise limited resources most effectively.

The extensive experience gained by the project in developing such support will enable others to benefit from the work and to draw on the lessons which have been learned.

In addition the evaluation report produced following the Education for Parenthood course at Monifieth High School will be published, following increased interest in initiatives to raise awareness amongst young people about the implications and responsibilities of parenthood.

The Forfar Peer Education Programme will also be evaluated and a short report produced.

Year 3

The final year of the Project will concentrate on continuing to support the existing parents' groups in Angus and negotiating the most appropriate ways of sustaining these once the Project has concluded.

We shall also address the issue of providing support to parents of adolescents. This gap in provision was identified by parents during the needs assessment and we are currently exploring the possibility of producing a video resource which will focus on addressing a number of important general concerns in an informal setting.

This new resource will focus on the adolescent/parent relationship from a young person's perspective.

The Rosemount Project - Royston, Glasgow

During the first year the Project concentrated on a group work approach with parents which aimed to raise awareness of the importance of parenting and its impact on child development.

Work has also focused on maintaining and developing contacts with a wide range of agencies working with families in the area to identify and develop improved forms of support for parents.

These aims were addressed by working with other organisations in the area to identify gaps in provision and to establish support needs.

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Parents were actively involved in this process and their input to the consultation process helped to establish a series of needs led support groups.

This led to a number of important findings which greatly influenced the work in Year 2:

- ***parents prefer a flexible, informal approach to support rather than formal structured courses***
- ***support has to acknowledge and address a variety of different individual needs***
- ***parents' needs must be balanced with children's needs***
- ***collaboration and joint practice with other agencies is a more efficient use of resources***
- ***good quality childcare is essential***

During the second year of the Project much of the work concentrated on building up the contacts made in the first year and extending these outwards into the community.

This resulted in a number of successful collaborative ventures which enabled us to increase the number of parents and children we are in contact with and to raise awareness about the Project and the importance of supporting parents.

The Project has one full time Group Worker and two part time Child Care Workers based in the Rosemount Family Learning Centre (formerly The Rosemount Project).

"As a new person in the area you can sometimes feel quite isolated. The Parents' Group has provided me with the opportunity to meet new people and share issues."

Project Achievements

The following initiatives were developed in Year 2:

Parent Support Groups

Rosemount Parent Support Group - Ongoing

This group meets weekly and provides opportunities for parents to share experiences and ideas with other parents and take time out to reflect on their role.

The structure of the group allows parents to raise issues of concern for them or their family in a confidential and supportive way.

The group has access to a number of useful resources and services in the area including the Royston Stress Centre.

Parents and Toddlers Group- (Until April 1999)

The Parenting Project have been involved with this group since April '97 and have worked with a number of parents in that time.

The group has developed a strong emphasis on self awareness and understanding parents' needs and children's needs in discussions.

This is supplemented by the use of video material and role playing. In April '99 this group will amalgamate with the Rosemount Parent Support Group.

Drop-In Centre (Jan - July)

This facility ran for six months and was a very popular option with many parents. It led to a First Aid course which the majority of parents attended; while others opted for an English language course.

The large number of parents attending meant that resource restrictions made it difficult to continue in its original format after the summer break. However, many of these parents went on to attend the other parenting groups mentioned above.

Possil Health Centre - Ongoing

The work with parents here is in collaboration with health visitors at the Health Centre which has led to the development of a parents' room alongside the Baby Clinic.

This offers mothers attending the clinic the opportunity to receive additional parenting support in an informal way.

Health Visitors and the Project Group Worker attend the clinic and provide advice, support and the opportunity to meet other parents living in the area. The works aims to reduce isolation, improve access to information and help to raise self-esteem amongst the large number of vulnerable young families living in the area.

Phoenix House - 12 Week Programme

This is a pilot scheme which has been developed in partnership with the Possil Health Centre and Phoenix House; a drug rehabilitation centre in the Possil area of Glasgow.

This work with residents follows a twelve week programme where up to 13 parents (mostly fathers) receive support to examine their parenting role and increase their awareness of parental responsibilities.

Many are anxious to re-establish contact with their children but require support to do so.

This is a structured group which relies on group discussions, role play and the use of video material. An evaluation will take place at the end of this pilot with a view to negotiating a second course in September' 99.

Additional Project Initiatives

Glasgow Health Promotion - Ongoing

The Positive Parenting Project at Rosemount are working with Glasgow Health Promotion to develop an interactive information and discussion tool for parents of younger children, age five plus, on issues relating to alcohol, drugs and tobacco.

In addition to providing general information the resource aims to increase parental knowledge levels and consolidate, in the home, the work that is being delivered in schools.

The Project Worker is providing advice on content and practical help in discussing drug issues with children. Once completed the project will provide access to parents to pilot this resource.

Rosemount After School

This after school group has twenty eight children working on a book which explores what children think about everyday family life.

Small groups discuss different topics regarding family life and then go on to develop and produce their work using computers.

The book entitled **Listen to Children** is being developed in partnership with the Rosemount Flexi Learning Unit and once completed, parents will be invited to take part in a discussion session around issues which the children have raised.

St 'Roch's Primary School - (until Dec '98)

The Rosemount Positive Parenting Project childcare staff provided the creche for a parent support group until December '98. This group worked with parents to help them teach their children communication skills using play activities and games.

Library - Ongoing (as required)

This new initiative is being developed as part of the 'supporting parents supporting children' programme to enhance literacy in the community.

The library operates on a self-help basis where parents and children can access up to 300 different books.

Programme Contents and Resources

In most of the group work we undertook with parents they identified the programme they wished to follow and the topics to cover.

Some of these topics included:

Parents' needs, children's needs

Acknowledging parents' feelings and children's feelings

Talking and listening to children
Being firm and gentle, being able to say no

Child development - different stages, different problems

Children's rights, parental responsibilities

Keeping children safe, looking at risk

Each session is designed to be flexible and responsive to the needs of those attending. The Group Worker utilises a combination of different resources to do this and has drawn on the following:

Working with Parents for Change

Assertiveness for Parents

Getting Through the Day

Nought to Sixes of Parenting

All in the Same Boat

Confident Parents, Confident Children

Five to Fifteens of Parenting

Forthcoming Reports

In Year 3 a report will be produced which will focus on the provision of support to parents and families living in urban areas which experience high levels of poverty, unemployment and ill health.

It will examine the most effective ways of reaching and developing contacts with parents and other organisations in the area.

The report will highlight the project's experience of working within a collaborative framework which effectively utilises existing local resources and structures.

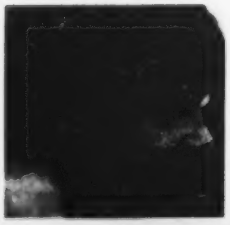
This way of working has successfully led to the development of a broad range of supportive initiatives and built up a network of key people and organisations working together for parents and families .

In addition, two other reports will be produced following an evaluation of the work being done at Phoenix House and the Possil Health Centre (see page 11).

The final year of the Project in Rosemount will concentrate on examining ways to ensure that existing support arrangements and structures continue.

We shall also continue to support the current ongoing initiatives and to identify any further development opportunities in the area.

"I now feel ok to do things for me - this has helped me to balance the needs of the children with my own".



Niddrie Adventure Playground

Work in Niddrie concentrated on trying to reach and support young parents.

In Year 1 this proved to be a complex task because as a group, parents in this area are difficult to make contact with.

There is an exceptionally high turnover of residents in the area which has implications for developing support structures.

Young parents who are intending to move on to another area are sometimes reluctant to join a support group or activity.

Many young parents have a broad range of needs which are frequently unrelated to their needs as parents. Personal and social development opportunities with other young people therefore have to be provided in conjunction with parenting support.

The aims for year 2 included the following:

- ***continue to promote the Project with other agencies and organisations in the area***
- ***develop a collaborative network of contacts to look at ways of reaching and supporting young people***
- ***continue to identify the support needs of this group and how these can be addressed***
- ***continue to develop, support and extend ongoing work.***

Project Response

In Year 2, two initiatives were undertaken:

Healthy Family Eating on a Budget

This four week course was offered to parents at a local nursery and an average of ten parents each week attended.

Video Resource

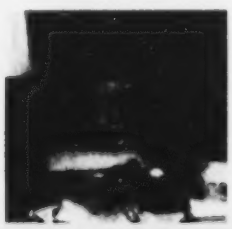
This initiative sought to assist and support young parents in making and producing a video which highlighted the issues for this group in the area.

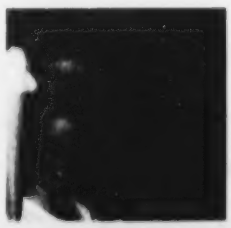
All attempts to generate some local interest in this work met with a poor response and the initiative was finally abandoned.

Conclusion of Work

Eventually due to a number of factors, including the low take up and interest in the groups and changes to the future management structure of Niddrie Adventure Playground, it was decided, reluctantly, to discontinue the work in Niddrie.

"I learned a lot from the first aid course. It has helped me deal with emergencies with the children".





Parents' Seminar - Trefoil House Edinburgh

On the 24th March '98 we organised a seminar for parents from across the Project.

This provided an opportunity for people to get together and share their experiences of contemporary parenting.

Twenty four parents and twenty one children travelled from all over Scotland to participate in the day's event.

Workshops looked at a number of issues centring on the support needs of parents and the findings from this consultation formed the basis of the report **Giving Parents a Voice,** which was published in February '99. Childcare was provided for the children giving parents an opportunity to participate fully.

Parents welcomed the chance to articulate their views on the challenges and difficulties facing today's parents. They called for greater support in terms of increased access to clear and appropriate information and also for support in the form of informal parent groups which they can access as required.

These groups can provide an additional source of information as well as providing parents with emotional and social support. The opportunity to share their concerns with another understanding parent is seen as a major source of support.

Conferences

Project workers and parents participated at a number of local and national conferences.

These events enabled us to disseminate our experience to other organisations and allowed parents to develop new skills and confidence.

Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

7th International Conference United Nations Vienna International Centre

Two members of the Positive Parenting Project team - the National Co-ordinator and the Development Worker from Angus were invited to participate at this major international event entitled 'Local Networks and Structures to Support Families'.

Under the rural theme of this conference they gave a presentation about the parent support work in Angus, highlighting the community development approach which underpins it.

Information about the Project generally was also disseminated using an information stand, thus ensuring that the experiences and lessons gained over the past two years reached a large international audience.

Your Children Matter

In October '98 Family Mediation Scotland designed and produced a new booklet to explain parental rights and responsibilities to parents, as provided for in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

A number of parents from The Rosemount Project participated in the early pilot studies and provided some useful feedback to the author.

They and their children were invited by Family Mediation Scotland and the Scottish Office to the public launch of the booklet and met the Minister for Home Affairs Mr Henry McLeish and parents from other organisations represented there.

Newsletters - Journals - Bulletins

As an aid to communication across the Project, the Co-ordinator and the Project Administrator produced regular newsletters featuring events and developments in the Project, recent research findings, policy developments, new resources, conferences and publications.

These newsletters were disseminated to workers and parents involved with the Project and were a useful way of providing parents with up to date information.

In addition, articles about the Parenting Project were featured in a number of other publications produced by various organisations:

Parenting Education and Support Forum

Scottish Parenting Forum

Voluntary Sector Implementation Forum

Third Force News

Community Care

Rural Scotland Bulletin

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation's Council

Published Reports

Parents Talking, Who's Listening

In February '98 we launched the report **'Parents Talking, Who's Listening'.**

This report, by Kathryn Clarkson, was based on consultation with parents of primary school aged children in the Greater Pilton area of Edinburgh.

It highlighted the main concerns of parents in this area in relation to their children and identified a number of practical ways in which parents could be helped to be more involved.

Supporting Parents, Supporting Parenting

The end of first year report **Supporting Parents, Supporting Parenting** was published in May '98 and attracted a great deal of media interest.

The report, based on an extensive needs assessment conducted across the Project, identified a number of important factors to be considered in structuring and delivering support to parents and families.

We consulted with over 300 parents and a broad range of agencies and organisation across Scotland and the findings from this exercise formed the main part of this report.

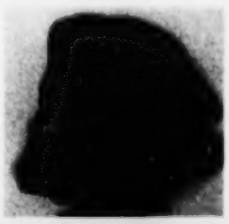
In addition, it provides an historical review of policy developments in relation to parenting and summarises the main points.

The report challenges the assertion that some parents should attend parenting classes on the grounds that most parents would not favour such an approach.

Parents prefer a flexible, informal approach which is responsive to individual and local needs and acknowledges the varying requirements of parents as individuals. Fear of being stigmatised as a bad parent discourages many parents from attending such classes.

The report was featured in a number of live television and radio programmes and parents in Angus and Muirhouse were interviewed by reporters and appeared on national television.

Photographs of parents involved with the Project feature in the report along with a selection of quotations which convey a strong sense of how parents feel.



Education For Parenthood

This report is based on an evaluation which was conducted following the delivery of the Education for Parenthood course to pupils from Year 2 at Monifieth High School in Angus.

During the initial needs assessment conducted in Year 1, we found that many parents felt ill prepared for the responsibilities of parenthood and would like to have had some form of preparation or awareness raising at school.

This course therefore aimed to raise awareness about the implications of becoming a parent and to increase understanding about the responsibilities of parenthood.

The report provides an analysis of the findings and makes a number of recommendations for future course delivery.

While this report was originally produced for Angus Council Education Department it will shortly be published by Save the Children Scotland for wider dissemination.

Giving Parents a Voice: A children's rights issue

This report is based on the seminar organised for parents from across Scotland involved with the Positive Parenting Project.

It provides an insight into how parents feel about contemporary parenting and identifies a number of issues which need to be considered in designing and delivering support.

Final Year of the Project

In this the final year of the Project we plan to publish one further report which will outline a model for the design and delivery of support to parents in a variety of different settings and environments.

This report will focus on how our experience over three years can be used to develop a policy framework for the provision of general support to parents.

It will provide a prescriptive model of the most effective approach to adopt in meeting parents' needs and will draw on the personal experiences of parents and other key people in communities.

The report will also address the issue of communication and the importance of language in affecting the take up of support opportunities. This issue plays a important role in overcoming the stigma many parents face in deciding to seek out support.

A major conference is planned for October '99 which will focus on the overall findings of the Project and provide a valuable input into policy planning in relation to the provision of general support to parents and families in Scotland.

If you require any further information on the Project please contact:

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Positive Parenting Project,
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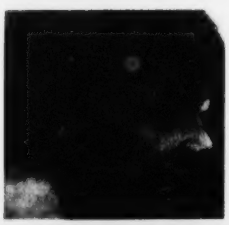
Tel 0131 527 8255 Fax 0131 527 8201
e-mail e.cutting@scfuk.org.uk

If you wish to place an order for any of the above mentioned reports please contact Joyce Sperber Information Officer (address as above).



1998 February

Muirhouse
Launch of the report **Parents Talking Who's Listening.**

Rosemount
Parents and workers attended a Workshop entitled **Parents' Needs, Children's Needs.**

This event highlighted the difficulties which can arise if the often conflicting needs of parents and children are not met. Parents looked at strategies for resolving this.

March

Parents and children from across the Project attended the Seminar **Giving Parents a Voice.**

The day helped to highlight the support needs and issues for parents and a report of the day was published in January '99.

April

Greater Pilton
Parents involved in a successful city wide petition to reverse a decision to withdraw hot school meals by the City of Edinburgh Council.

May

Parents from Angus and Greater Pilton appeared on television as part of the widespread media interest in the Project following the launch of the First Year Report **Supporting Parents, Supporting Parenting.**

Parents from the Kirriemuir Young Parents' Group in Angus launched the **Essential Guide to Parenthood** which they designed and produced. This has been used extensively by Social Workers in Angus in highlighting the needs of parents and children.

June

Launch of the Little Book of Information which received extensive media coverage in Angus.

This book provides a comprehensive list of useful telephone numbers and addresses for parents and families.

***July* - Sept**

Parents from the Parents Action Group administered their questionnaire to over 180 parents in Greater Pilton gathering essential information about children, services and resources in the area.

August

Parents from the Kirriemuir and Montrose Young Parents' Groups in Angus team up for a family day trip to Craigton Park.

September

Two parents from the Kirrmuir Group in Angus participate at a conference with the Project Worker. 'Parents, Participation and Good Practice' was organised by the Scottish Parenting Forum and highlighted elements of good practice in supporting parents.

These parents spoke about their experience of receiving support from the group and contributed to workshops during the day.

October

Launch of the booklet entitled **Your Children Matter.**

Parents from The Rosemount Project were invited by Family Mediation Scotland to the launch of this booklet which explains parental rights and responsibilities in relation to the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

These parents helped to pilot the booklet and they and their children, along with other parents, were part of the public reception at The Scottish Office.

November

Project Co-ordinator and Project Worker from Angus presented a paper on the work in Angus at an International Conference in Vienna organised by the NGO Committee on the Family in co-operation with the International Union of Family Organisations.

December

Kirriemuir Young Parents' Group in Angus apply for Lottery Funding to continue the group, following their successful bid for Charitable Status.

Appendix

Contacts with Other Organisations

Greater Pilton - Edinburgh

The Pilton Partnership

Stepping Stones

NEAR (North Edinburgh Area Renewal)

Greater Pilton Early Years Strategy Group

Family Service Unit

City of Edinburgh Community Education (Pilton)

The Health Hut

Silverknowes Primary School

Royston Primary School

Brook Advisory Centre

Parents Action Group

Greater Pilton Childcare Centre

Riverside Early Years Training Centre

Mums Supporting Mums

Stress Centre

Health Visitors

Parkway Children's Centre

No 20 Family Care

Craigmuir Primary School

Angus

Angus NHS Trust

Montrose Under 8's Forum

Health Visitors

Angus Council

Forfar Drugs Initiative Group

Angus Council Community Education Services

WEB Project

One Parent Family Scotland

Forfar Under 8's Forum

Angus Rural Rights

Angus Council Education - Senior Guidance Staff

Angus Rural Childcare Project Advisory Group

Royston - Glasgow

Possil Health Centre

Glasgow Health Promotion

Phoenix House

Garngad Parents and Toddlers

Social Work Department

Flexi Centre

St Gilbert's Parents Association

Mobile Creche

Family Mediation Scotland

Glasgow North Sitter Service

Bridgend Health Centre

St Roch's Primary School and Childcare Centre

Homeless Support Unit

Townhead Health Centre

Community Education

Stress Centre

Sighthill Nursery

Parent to Parent Information on Adoption Service

Red Road Women's Centre

Providing appropriate support services to parents is now recognised as being an essential element in ensuring that the multiple needs of families are being addressed. By providing support which meets some of these needs, families can be strengthened and many of the current problems and difficulties they face may be prevented.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises the importance of ensuring that States Parties provide parents and legal guardians with assistance in meeting their child rearing responsibilities and the Positive Parenting Project endorses this approach in all of its work.

This report follows on from the success of the first year report 'Supporting Parents, Supporting Parenting' and provides an update on the initiatives undertaken by Save the Children in Scotland. It provides an account of the range of work the Project developed in its second year and demonstrates the diverse ways in which communities can respond to the multiple needs of parents and families.

In this the last year of the Project, a number of other reports will be published which will include a final report outlining a model for the design and delivery of support to parents in a variety of different settings and environments. This report will draw together the knowledge and experience gained over the three years of the Project and is intended to provide a policy framework for those with a responsibility to provide such support to parents in the future.

Orders and further details from:
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